SERIOUS CHARGES

The House Public Building Committee Considering Grave Accusations,

THE SUPERVISING ARCHITECT'S OFFICE

Bad Workmanship and Designing in the Post Office Building.

A LONG BILL OF COMPLAINTS

The bad workmanship and the bad planning of the Washington post office building, so often subjects of public discussion of late, have been made the text of a formal presentation to the House and Senate committees on public buildings and grounds, which, it is believed, will cause an investigation of perhaps far-reaching importance There has just been filed with those committees a sworn statement by Charles Francis Wood, former contractor for the steam heating and ventilating in the Post Office Department, which avers a long list of charges against the manner in which the supervising architect's office is organized and managed.

While several of those charges, which are subscribed to under oath, relate to the contract in which the complainant was directly interested, others relate to matters not in the same connection, but affecting the manner in which the public money is expended in general, and on the construction of the post office in particular. The sum total of the amount which Mr. Wood charges was wasted by inefficient planning and administration is sufficiently large to attract the notice of Congress. The charges have been called directly to the attention of Chairman Mercer of the House committee, who today atmounced their receipt and stated that he had not yet had time to examine into them closely as he intended soon to do. It is believed that they will is promptly laid before the full committee and probably referred to a subcommittee for investigation, as they bear most serious ly upon the efficiency of the public building bureau. rectly interested, others relate to matters

Mr. Wood, whose own claims for dam-ares have been filed before the Court of Claims, files his petition in his right as a citizen of Pennsylvania, concerned in the manner in which the public funds are ex-pended. He sets forth his charges as fol-

Public Money Wasted. "That by reason of the conditions exist-

ing in the methods of constructing public buildings throughout the United States, and more particularly by reason of the con-ditions existing at the United States post

and more particularly by reason of the conditions existing at the United States post office building at Washington, D. C., recently finished under the direction of the supervising architect's office of the United States Treasury Department, and because of the wignerful methods, inefficiency and incompetency existing in the office of the said supervising architect, large sums of the public money of the United States are being wasted.

The supervising architect's office presented and sent out certain plans and specifications for the holder plant, steam heating and ventilating apparatus, but and cold water supply system, etc., in the Washington past office building; your petitioner entered into a contract with the United States based on those plans and specifications, the plans and specifications were so faulty and a straight of a many errors as to result in a long delay in the completion of the contract, and by reason of those faults and errors in the plans the architect's office caused a large waste of the public money of the I nited States.

The specifications called for the use of certain improper material for gaskets between the flances of the steam piping; after protesting against the use of that material, your petitioner placed the same in position in stilled accordance with the specifications. The material upon trial proved to be improper and resulted in leaky joints throughout all the piping system. At the demand of the architect your petitioner against his protest was compelled to renew the finits with this improper material three different times, but after the third renewal your petitioner refused to make any further repairs with this improper material three different times, but after the third renewal your petitioner refused to make any further repairs with the gaskets. After this retusal the questions in regard to the faults and errors on the part of the supervising architect, was referred to a board of arbitration, composed of naval officers from the bureau of steam engineering of the Navy Department Codins, engineer in other officers from the tration, composed of naval officers from the man. After a careful investigation of the questions the beard returned a verdict in favor of your petitioner on every material point in dispute, and your petitioner was released from all responsibility for the faults and errors, and also for the improper and defective material. As a result of that teport there was spent of the public money \$750 to renew 152 (more or less) and the loints with proper rubber packing. joints with proper rubber packing at said expenditure was a waste of the public money resulting directly from the inefficiency of the supervising archi-tect's office.

"Certain cold-air boxes, shown on the plans and called for by the specifications. when constructed according to the dimens one given proved to be of the wrong size and could not be used in the work. petitioner, having complied with the plans and specifications, was released from all responsibility for mistakes and errors by he board. Thereafter \$13 was expended a correct the errors in 257 boxes (more or

Sf. The cold-air boxes forming part of the The cold-air boxes forming part of the ventilating system of the said building, even after the changes were made, were and are not proper for the use of the system. Within the last six weeks the Post other bepartment has been compelled to noil grivanized iron strips on the outside of the building over the openings to the said cold-air boxes, at an expense of about 250. By reason of the closing of these reason of the closing of these above the first story are without ventila-tion. This condition of affairs is the direct result of the famity design of the system, and by reason of the faulty design all me money expended for this system, amounting to many thousands of dollars, is wasted, and this money is in addition to the amounts now being spent by the Post Offic Department to render the building habit

Bad Boiler Work.

"The above mentioned contract called for welve boilers, and the plans and specificaons illustrated and described certain brick settings for the same. Your petitioner installed the bollers and set them in brick work strictly in accordance with the plans and specifications, but owing to the faulty design of the settings they cracked and began to fall to pleces at once when fire was put under them. Demands were wrongfully made on your petitioner by the supervising architect to rebuild the brick settings but when the question was referred to the located of arbitration your petitioner was released from all responsibility for the decased certified for there that your petitioner had compiled with all the terms of his contract, as claimed by him, and that the demands made upon him by the supervising architect were unlawful and unjust. These bodier settings, constructed in accordance with the plans and, specifications, were timed over to the Post Office Department by the supervising architect without any remains of the defects caused by their faulty design, and by reason thereof it will be necessary for the Post Office Department to make repairs to the boller settings to an amount equaling \$5,000 or \$1,000.

Your petitioner further avers his belief that the bollers as now set in brick work are dangerous to the life and limb of those who work near and about them, and that day the sliding of the bollers on the rollers the cast from elbows are liable to be cracked at any time, to the almost certain scalding of the men who of necessity work between the bollers. settings for the same. Your petitioner in-scalled the bollers and set them in brick

were placed in the building in account of the supervising architect, concrete materials for filling bediev various floors of the building, naterials were improper and defectiff it be claimed that they were not at them, by reason of a lack of at on the part of the supervising t and the inefficiency and incompetable of the supervising that the supervising the supervising the supervising the supervising that the supervision is now being given to the methods of repairing the defective windows by the Post Office Department, and that these repairs, if and when made, will constitute another waste of several thousands of dollars of the public money.

The Granite Scandal.

"Your petitioner further avers that he be-lives that consideration is now being given to the methods of repairing the defective windows by the Post Office Department, and that these repairs, if and when made, will constitute another waste of several thousands of dollars of the public money.

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\$1 gloves.

New corsets. New arrivals in Ladles' Corsets -of such famed makes as "P. N.," "C. B.," "R. & G.," "Thompson's" a n d "American Lady." All colors and all styles-short and long. Our \$1 nrice.

922=24=26=28 7th St., Running through to 704-6 K Street, "THE DEPENDABLE STORE."

\$1.25 skirts.

Fine Quality Fast Black and Fancy Striped Sateen Underskirts: Toilet requisites. Dr. Lyon's Tooth Powder, 12

der, 41gc. Regular 25c. Imported Bay Run and Florida Water, double dis tilled, 18c. Castile Soap, 12c. a lb. bar.

Tomorrow we lift the curtain upon the most stupendous purchase of suits, skirts and waists ever known!

Immense quantities of ladies' finest made outer-garments have come to "The Dependable Store"-a maker's surplus and samples-and they go on sale tomorrow morning at prices that will seem incredibly low-that are positively without precedent in the annals of retail selling. In a word, it is the most important sale this store has ever known. The sterling qualities—the superior styles and astonishingly low prices join forces to make it the biggest and most extraordinary event of the kind it has ever been our good fortune to inaugurate. And it cannot fail to prove the most successful—for no woman can resist the values offered. For never has such an opportunity been offered to secure garments so superior as these at one-half to one-third usual prices. Nor are the values exaggerated one whit. You may be skeptical at first—but inspection will bear us out that every statement is true.

Ladies' stylish dress (NA) skirts, worth up to \$12,



finest imported Cheviot Skirts. The latter are trimmed in the most elaborate manner, with satin bow knots, and others are made up of imported French Broadcloths, trimmed with satin band flounces, all with tunic overskirts, and some are beautifully applique trimmed. In-cluded are real Scotch Heather Plaids, with taffeta band flounces. Every garment in the offering is tailored with the most painstaking care. Every little detail of style is present. The very cheapest skirt is worth not a penny less than \$8 -while the rest are regularly sold up to \$12.00. They should create a sensation at \$3.98.

Ladies' tailor-made suits, worth up to \$15, for =



This lot contains a large assortment of fine garments - including fashionable Homespun and Cheviot Serge Suits. The former are in black, brown, blue and gray-and the latter are in black and navy blue, staple colors, that can be worn upon all occasions. Some of the jackets are lined with superior quality rustling taffeta silks, and the others are lined with Roman silk. They are cut in the latest Eton and fly-front styles. They are far superior to the ordinary suits. Clever mantailors had their making in hand, and they plainly show their thorough workmanship and inimitable style. There's not a single garment among them worth under \$10.00-while many are good \$15 values. \$6.98 secures the choice.

big shoe values.

Ladies' Fine Quality Kidskin Slippers, Oxfords and Shoes—in all the most desirable styles—choice of black and tan—they're manufacturer's samples—and sell regit 93C.

A complete line of Ladies' Fine Grade Kidskin Shoes, in lace and button styles and latest shapes, including pug and new round toes. Values which are actually worth up to \$2.50 and \$1.37

Saturday savings on boys' clothing.

Saturday we shall effer a hig lot of Boys' All-wool Knee Pants, finished with taped seams and patent wist band-spleadid wearers and desirable patterns, worth 50c., for

Finest taffeta silk dress skirts==worth up to \$20.00=go for = =



Exactly 20 of them. Consisting of finest taffeta Tunic Overskirts, with silk fringe trimming and accordeon pleated bottoms; others are fine appliqued in cut-out and embroidered applique effects. They are sold subject to slight imperfections in either workmanship or material-but to such a slight extent as can only be noticed by the closest scrutiny---and which can be readily remedied. They are all made of the very finest quality taffeta silks-and are made up in the most elegant styles, being the swellest creations of Fashion's newest and most beautiful garments. The values are positively worth up to twenty dollars. At \$6.98 vou may well consider it the most unprecedented offering ever known.

Ladies' stylish dress skirts, worth up to \$7.50,



This third lot contains some values just as remarkable as the others-and will create just as much of a stir. Included are Fine All-wool Venetian and French Broadcloth Skirts, in such desirable colors as New Blue, Tan, Gray, etc.-and also Navy Blue and Black Cheviots, elaborately trimmed with applique and taffeta silk bands; besides imported wide wale Gray Homespun Camel's Hair Skirts, All-wool Plaid Skirts, in every fashionable color combination and Plain Black and Blue Cheviot Skirts. Every garment in the lot is of the most desirable sortthoroughly well tailored and carefully finished. None are worth under five dollars, while the

majority are worth up to \$7.50. Choice is offered at \$2.98.

Finest man-tailored suits, worth up to \$25.



In this offering is included the most remarkable values ever known in the annals of retail selling. The suits are made of the finest imported materials, consisting of Finest Broadcloths, Venetians, Coverts and Vicunas. They're the season's newest and most exclusive styles-lackets are Eton Bolero, tight-fitting, double-breasted and reefer styles-with the correct Box pleat. They are most beautifully trimmed. Some have entire fronts of taffeta, while others have taffeta band trimmings. Skirts are applique trimmed in taffeta-and others are richly braided. Still more are trimmed with bands of self material, in the latest tailor-made style. Jackets are lined in plain and taffeta silks. Besides Black, every shade that's fashionable is represented.

Word painting cannot do them justice. You must see the suits themselves to adequately appreciate the exclusive stylishness and man-tailored elegance that marks every line. They are positively worth \$18, \$20 and \$25-and choice is offered for \$9.98.

Taffeta and fancy silk (NO waists, worth as high as



Here are some two hundred Fine Quality Silk Waists, made up from superior taffeta and fancy silks, in the newest and most effective styles for spring wear. Choice is offered of a myriad of exquisite styles, including the lovely hemstitched and newest all-over tucked effects, besides others with combination hemstitching and tucking-and some trimmed with bands strip-stitched, and more with fancy cording. The taffeta silks are in every fashionable shade, including Cerise, Red, Royal, Cadet, Turquoise, Lavender, etc.-as well as plenty of Blacks. Others are of fancy silks, in attractive plaids and stripes, and a few corded white taf-

fetas and evening waists. The cheapest is well worth \$5.98, and the majority are worth up to \$8.00. Choice goes for \$3.98.

Wrapper selling that puts all competition to rout.

Our wrapper buyer has secured surpassing values in high-grade Wrappers—and they go on sale tomorrow to add new luster to our already great fame for underselling. They comprise a makers' overproduction and samples—and every garment is of the highest grade. A great number are one-of-a-kind styles—so you can readily see the necessity for prompt choosing. It is an opportunity that cannot be equaled again-for such values are possible only once in a great while.

Wrappers worth up to \$2.50

The first lot consists of fine quality Sateens trimmed with safin baby ribbon, in plain black and colors—French Sateens, trimmed with braild and ruffles—Percales, prettily trimmed with insertion and lace, which have deepest wide flounces—fine Summer Lawns, beautifully made with ruffles and trimmed with val. laces and edgings—and Batistes, elaborately trimmed with deep flounces, ruffles and braid. Also several 2-piece Suits, separate skirt and wast, which sell at \$2.25 and \$2.50. as you know. There's the widest possible assortmen: of styles to choose from—in all colors, both light and dark, and every size from 32 to 46. They are all made in the best possible manner. The values sell regularly at \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.50—and choice

Wrappers worth \$1.00.

In the second lot have been included all the Wrappers worth under \$1.50—and the values are just as remarkable as in the first lot. You are given the choice of best quality Print Wrappers. In such staple colors as any blue, gramet and black grounds. Some are trimmed with ruffles over the shoulders, and some have fancy braided yokes. Every wrapper is made in the most careful manner—with separate waist lining—and other little details that show thorough workmanship. The skirts are good and wide—and every garment is full cut and perfect fitting. There are all sizes. The regular dollar wrappers—offered for.

the tractic was hecesary to the floors of the cerial removed from all of the floors of the colliding and replace it with other material, it a cost of not less than \$16,000, as your betitioner verily believes.

The Leaky Roof.

"The architect caused to be constructed over the building a large and expensive skylight or roof. That skylight is now, and always has been, defective and dangerous to the life and limbs of those working under it. By reason of its faulty design or construction many repairs, aggregating in cost many hundreds of dollars, have already been made. Parts of the transport

construction many repairs, aggregating in cost many hundreds of dollars, have already been made. Parts of the ironwork of the skylight have within six weeks past failen a distance of nearly two hundred feet into the post office working room, where several hundred people are usually employed, to the imminent danger of the lives and limbs of the employes. The Post office Department is now engaged in a general repairing of the skylight, at an expense, as your petitioner verily believes, of many hundreds of dollars.

"Your petitioner further avers his belief that the skylight was accepted and paid for by the architect's office over the protest of some of the inspectors, employed to supervise its construction, and in spite of the recommendations made by these officers that changes ought to be made in it. Your petitioner also avers his belief that the architect has allowed the skylight to remain a menace to life and limb for several years while having knowledge of the defective and unsafe construction, and that the architect has now concealed in the files of his office reports condemning said construction from those whose duty it was to inspect the work, and that in dereliction of his duty and in violation of his oath of office he has failed to act on these reports, to the great danger of the public and the great loss of the public money of the United States.

The Windows.

The architect called for in his specifica ions and caused to be installed in said building several hundred windows of a certain patented construction. Those windows vere and are defective in design and con struction. Since the building was occupied by the post office authorities all, or nearly all, of them have been nailed up with weather stripping, not only destroying en-tirely the patented construction for which the government paid large extra sums of money, but as a direct cost of much addi-tional money. Many of these windows are now stuffed with rags and blotting paper, in in endeavor to keep out the cold air, and bey are now the cause of much complain they are now the cause of much complaint and even sickness among the employes of the department occupying the building, resulting in an interference with the public service and a loss of the public money. "Your petitioner avers his belief that the supervising architect had knowledge of the defective design and construction of the windows, and that he personally, in company with his chief executive officer, visited the building and inspected, accepted and the building and inspected, accepted and paid for the said windows, in spite of the protests and over the recommendations of his assistants in charge of the work. Your petitioner also believes that there are now concealed in the files of said architect's office the reports of said assistants con-demning the windows, and that those redemning the windows, and that those re-ports are of a date previous to the accept-ance and payment by the supervising archi-tect for the window construction.

"Your petitioner further ayers that he be

ceived an alternate proposal for the cor struction of the building of 'cut face' granite in the sum of \$925,000, more or less; that the difference in the amount between the

contract was let for the building of 'rock ace' stone for about the sum of \$837,000, as above; that at a later date the said archi tect's office made a change in said contract at a time when about one-quarter of said rock face work was done, and that the then entered into an additional contract for then entered into an additional contract for the 'cut face' stone for an additional sum of \$223,786, which additional contract only in-8223,786, which additional contract only in-cluded about three-quarters of the amount of stone cutting originally proposed to be done by the same contractor for about the sum of \$88,000.

"It is your petitioner's belief that there

"It is your petitioner's belief that there was no material increase in the price of labor on the stone cutting, and that there were no other unsual public conditions to account for the great increase in the price of the work within the space of a few months, and that such action on the part of the supervising architect's office was, and is, against the public interests, and a waste of not less than \$161,786 of the public money, all of which is due to the inefficiency, incompetency, or something far worse, which exists in the organization of the public building bureau. Your petitionthe characteristic constraints of the public building bureau. Your petition or further avers that there now is connected with said organization one or more of the people who signed and approved the letter of acceptance authorizing said wast of the public money of the United States.

As Bad Elsewhere.

reason of divers and sundry other errors and blunders on the post ouilding and on other public buildings throughout the United States, which errors, etc., are too numerous for your petitione to set forth herein, the supervising architect's office, through its inefficiency and incompetency, is wasting and causing to be wasted other large sums of the public money, to the detriment and damage of your petitioner and his fellow citizens, and your petitioner hereby most respectfully prays for a hearing on this subject by your committee at such an early date as shall suit them to appoint, and he prays also for the introduction and passage by the Congress of the United States of a resolution for the appointment of a committee to investigate the records and doings of the said supervising architect's office of the United States Treasury Department in relation to its expenditure of the public united States, and in relation to all the other doings of that organization which may be brought before said committee." to set forth herein, the supervising archi

FROM NATURAL CAUSES Death of Stephen Young, Said to Bo

108 Years Old. Stephen Young, colored, died at his home

on South Capitol street yesterday morning without having been attended by a physician. His death was reported to th coroner yesterday afternoon by the police Young's age was given as one hundred and eight, although it is believed his years had not exceeded the century mark.

of Buzzard's Point for a number of years.

Owing to his advanced age he has been growing weaker during recent months, but he did not feel sick enough this week to call in a doctor. Coroner Carr examined call in a doctor. Coroner Carr the body today, and gave a cer

Minor Lawson, Harry Busbank and Wil

Statistics to Show Violations of Law Among

Refuted by a Correspondent Who Offers Counter Facts.

To the Editor of The Evening Star:

In a recent issue of your paper Comcharge that the pension rolls have on them the names of many fraudulent pensioners, and he furnishes a comparative table of figures to show that less fraud is found in the administration of the pension laws than in the administration of the internal revenue and postal laws and customs

Here is his statement: "Internal revenue laws-Convictions, 1.021; acquittals, 825; nolle prossed, 1.698. "Post office laws-Convictions, 770; acquittals, 92; nolle prossed, 244.

"Customs laws-Convictions, 136; acquit tals, 21; nolle prossed, 59, "Pension laws-Convictions, 109; acquit

tals, 17; nolle prossed, 88, "The cases still pending July 1, 1899, were 4.889 for violation of leternal revenue laws, 155 post office, 112 customs and 196 pen-

sions."
It will not take long to show that Commander Shaw is indebted to his fancy fo mander Shaw is indebted to his fancy for his facts. The last annual report of the commissioner of pensions (1899, page, 73) shows that there were during the year 249 indictments by the federal courts on account of pension frauds and 327 criminal cases pending on account of violation of the pension faws. In one city in the south the same report shows that of 129 selected cases investigated 100 were found to be wholly without foundation, and only one case was found in which the papers were honestly executed. On page 74 of the same wholly without foundation, and only one case was found in which the papers were honestly executed. On page 74 of the same report we find that, upon inquiry into the status of 6,500 pensioners in New York city and vicinity, the names of 455 persons who had died or remarked were still carried on the rolls, and presumably parties not entitled were drawing their pensions. Sixty-three widows, were dropped from the rolls for adulterous cohabitation (violation act of August 7, 1882), thirty-three widows were dropped for non-dependence and twenty-seven were found to be drawing pensions after remarriage, and sixty-nine cases were submitted for criminal prosecution. If that is not a record of fraud and crime, let me state some more facts. In 1894 (see réport of pension commissioner, page 74) there were made by pension examiners 4,764 criminal reports. Though the number of criminal reports made each year number of criminal reports made each since is not stated in the reports of commissioner of pensions, it is safe to that during no year have they than four thousand.

The Crime Record.

There were in 1802 147 criminal prosecu tions and 230 cases for criminal examina tion. In 1893 145 persons were indicted. In 1894 there were 464 indictments for violation of pension penal laws, and, as stated, lation of pension penal laws, and, as stated, 4,764 criminal cases reported. In 1895 there were 598 indictments and 507 cases submitted by the pension bureau for criminal prosecution (see commissioner of pensions report, 1895, page 22). In 1896 there were 339 indictments and 403 cases for criminal prosecution. In 1897, 248 indictments; in 1898 1,836 criminal cases reported and 223 indictments (report of Commissioner Evans, aggs 46). At present 327 criminal cases.

at improper times, and on account of one or both of the above reasons, the concrete was worthless for the purpose intended, and that it was necessary to order the manufacture of the said build-pending in the law division of that bureau. Shaw of the G. A. R. says the President is duty at Fort Mason, Cal., and ordered to commissioners back for twenty years, as I commissioners back for twenty years, as I have done, and find the pension rolls honeycombed with fraud. I do not say it in prejudice to the honest soldier, for whom I have the profoundest respect and admiration. I say it to let the demagogue in and out of Congress know to what base uses he has brought, through political legislation and administration, the rolls that contain the names of thousands of splendid and heroic men. Paying political debts with pensions and granting pensions solely upon legislation, have made the pension rolls the scoff and scandal of the passersby.

But it might be said that the nation during the thirty-five years since the war has grown less mindful of the dead.

But it might be said that the nation during the thirty-five years since the war has grown less mindful of the deeds of the old soldier and more carping and critical in the allowance of pensions, hence the greater showing and cry of fraud. The contrary is true. Everybody knows that every year since the war the pension laws have become more and more liberal, and the interpretation of them has grown more liberal, until now every man woman and obtained. tion of them has grown more liberal, until now every man, woman and child with a shadow of right to a pension can get on the rolls, and thousands of frauds can welk with them through the same open door, and thousands of these frauds are soldiers

In this army there were thousands of

scoundrels. Such men were afraid to apply for pensions during the first ten years after the war, because they knew their comrades' memories would be fatal to their claims. They waited till time's blur had effaced their records and then they poured in their claims by the thousands, until, as Grover Cleveland said: "Every community has its well-know fraudulent pensioners." Away back it 1870, when Carl Schurz was Secretary of 1870, when Carl Schurz was Secretary of the Interior and Bentley was commissioner of pensions, both honorable so'diers and the soldiers' friends. I find Mr. Bentley writing to Secretary Schurz that our pension system "is an open door to the treasury for the perpetration of fraud." In the same paper he says that the honest soldier is often defeated in his claim by the death or imperfect recollection of witnesses, while the fraudulent claimant can under our pension system easily prove his under our pension system easily prove hi case. Commissioner Bentley says in his re case. Commissioner Bentley says in his report, page 6, that the "pursuit of medical inquiries in pension cases is little better than a farce." And yet the same system is still followed. He found that the local examining surgeons were the tools of the so diers who clamored for more pensions. Many doctors in Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, Wisconsin and New Jersey have told me that they might as well close up their offices and leave town as to refuse to sign any of the affidavits that the soldiers bring to them. I have heard many a doctor say: "I will sign anything for an old soldier."

In 1879 there were 242,755 pensioners

soldier."

In 1879 there were 242,755 pensioners on the rolls. In 1899 there were 991,519 pensioners on the rolls. In 1879 there were found in 500 cases of pensioners previously dropped from the rolls that witnesses had dropped from the rolls that witnesses had committed perjury, and 94 had committed forgery, and that 386 officers and 248 comrades had made perjured affidavits. The same report of a republican pension commissioner, who was also an honorable soldler, shows that of the affidavits filed in 500 cases 70 per cent, or 3,084 out of 4,397, were perjured. As the pension roll has increased four-fold since 1879, then of the 43,186 pensioners dropped from the rolls last year there were at least 2,000 fraudulent, if not criminal, cases, in which were filed (using the same proportion of affidavits to cases as appeared in 1879) false affidavits of 1,544 officers, 992 comrades, 9,800 civillans, a total of 12,336 cases of perjury and 368 cases of forgery.

The Proposed Court of Appeals.

The Proposed Court of Appeals. Now a word about the preposed court of pension appeals to supplant the present

heartily in favor of it. I do not believe it. The proposition is not a new one, and if the President favored it he would long ago have President favored it he would long ago have recommended it. The commissioner of pensions does not favor such a court, and he has the President's absolute confidence and respect. Such a court would be the worst calamity that ever befell the appellant in a pension claim. The present board of pension appeals decides more cases in one month than a court of pension appeals consisting of five judges could decide in three years. The present board decided 1.012 cases last month, and until recently it took the Circuit Court of the District of Columbia more than two years to dispose of 700 cases, and this, too, with six judges at the disposal of the court. The present board disposal of the court. The present board consists of experienced examiners in the consists of experienced examiners in the pension bureau, who have shown especial ability and capacity in the adjudication of claims. They are protected by the civil service laws, and have no partisan bias in deciding cases. They have a thorough knowiedge of pension laws, rulings and decisions, the fruits of years of study and experience. In the place of these men Commander Shaw of the G. A. R. would have a court of pension appeals, which court, if precedents are followed, would consist of active or brokendown politicians, men who as administrations changed would look at pension cases not through their eyes, but through their likes or prejudices. Before this court would tions changed would look at pension cases not through their eyes, but through their likes or prejudices. Before this court would come the 18.491 attorneys who practice before the tension bureau. No man can limit or predict the length of arguments in a single case. And then after a pension case has been argued, first in chambers, then in open court, in severalty and in banque, and the counsel for the appellant had concluded an argument, the learned judges would retire and in due time a lengthy decision would be promulgated. During the hearing on a case many claimants and attorneys would want to introduce oral testimony, and often the court, to enlighten ittorneys would want to introduce oral testi-mony, and often the court, to enlighten it-self, would call for oral testimony. If they got along as fast as the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia used to go about 350 cases a year would be decided, and it would take just 59½ years to decide the 20.902 cases that were appealed in 1898 and 1890. CRANDAL MACKEY.

Cant Orin B. Mitchem ordnance depart. nent, has been ordered to make not to exceed two visits monthly during March April and May to the works of E. I. Du Pont, de Nemours & Co., at Wilmington, Del., to the works of the Lafin & Rand Powder Company at Pompton Lakes, N. J. and to the works of Lewis Nixon at South Amboy, N. J., on official business relative to the manufacture of smokeless powder.

The assignment of Maj. Oliver E. Wood, commissary of subsistence, U. S. V., as chief commissary of the division of Cuba has been confirmed. Major Wood will also assume the duties of purchasing commissary at Havana, Cuba. First Lieut. Kenneth Morton, ordnance

department, has been ordered from Frank-ford arsenal, Philadelphia, Pa., to Fort

ford arsenal. Philadelphia, Pa., to Fort Wadsworth, N. Y., on official business relative to the inspection of six-inch guns.

The following transfers have been made in the list Artillery: First Lieut. Thomas W. Winston, from Battery I to Battery G. First Lieut. William Chamberlaine, from Battery G to Battery I.

Colonel James W. Scully, assistant quartermaster general, U. S. A., has been ordered from New Orleans, La., to Beaumont and Galveston, Texas, on official business relative to the quartermaster's department. Lieutenant Colonel John V. Furey, deputy quartermaster general, U. S. A., has been ordered from Philadelphia, Pa., to this city for consultation on official business with the quartermaster general of the army.

First Lleutenant Jere B. Clayton, assist-

duty at Fort Mason, Cal., and ordered to Vancouver barracks, Washington. Acting Assistant surgeons Porter V. Bal-lou at Louisville, Ky.; Frederick D. Branch at Albany, N. Y.; George W. Ely, Pitts-lurg, Pa.; Samuel Friedman, New York burg. Pa.: Samuel Friedman, New York city, N. Y., and George H. R. Gosman, Brooklyn, N. Y., have been ordered to San Francisco, Cal., for assignment to duty. Major Edward E. Dravo, commissary of subsistence, U. S. A., has been assigned to duty as chief commissary of the Depart-ment of the Pacific, and eighth army corps, relieving Major Oskaloosa M. Smith, com-missary of subsistence.

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Colonel Wirt Davis, 3d Cavalry, has been ordered to report to the commanding gen-eral of the Department of the East in due time for assignment to duty with recruits at Fort Slocum, N. Y., taking passage on the transport Sumner for duty in the Phil-ippines.

ippines.
First Lieutenant Charles W. Castle, 16th First Lieutenant Charles W. Castle, 16th Infantry, has been relieved from duty as aide-de-camp on the staff of Major General Brooke, and is ordered to report at Fort Slocum, N. Y., in time for assignment to duty with recruits to be sent from that post on the transport Sumner to the Philippines. Capt. Louis Oestheim, 1st Artillery, now at San Francisco, Cal., has been ordered to Fort Scriven, Georgia, to Join his battery. Capt. Frederic H. Pomroy, acting commissary of subsistence, U. S. V., has been ordered from New York city to San Francisco. Cal., for temporary duty, upon the completion of which he will proceed to Manila, P. I., for duty.

nlia, P. I., for duty,
First Lieut, Adrian S. Fleming, 6th Artil-

First Lieut. Adrian S. Fleming, 6th Artillery, has been transferred from Battery D to Battery I of that regiment, and has been ordered to proceed to San Francisco, Cal., for assignment to duty.

Capt. Wm. Stephenson, assistant surgeon, has been detailed as a member of the examining board convened at the Army building, New York city, relieving Major Ezra Woodruff, surgeon.

Naval Orders.

Lieut C. H. Hayes has been detached rom duty on the Pensacola and ordered to duty on the Asiatic station. Naval Cadet G. C. Sweet, to duty as

watch and division officer of the Phila Assistant Surgeon D. H. Morgan has been rdered home from duty on the Asiatic sta-

tion, to await further orders. Passed Assistant Surgeon W. F. Arnold has been detached from the Pensacola navy yard and ordered to the Norfolk Hospital Norfolk navy yard, for treatment.

Acting Carpenter F. J. Simmonds has been detached from the Franklin and ordered to the navy yard, Portsmouth, N. H.

Acting Carpenter W. H. Squires, to duty at the Crescent ship yard, Elizabethport, N. J. Commander George Cowle has been or dered to temporary duty on the Pensacola and then to Manila. Lieut. P. N. Olmstead from duty at Port Lieut. P. N. Olmstead from duty at Portland, Oregon, to the Philadelphia.

The orders of Chief Boatswain William Anderson from the New York navy yard to command the Triton, have been revoked, and Boatswain A. F. Benzon, commanding the Sioux at Norfolk, has been ordered to command the Triton at the Washington pavy yard.